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MC2012-14
R2012-8

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United States Senate

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May 23, 2012

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Received

MAY 31 2012

In re: Docket No. MC2012-14 and R2012-8

Office of PAGR

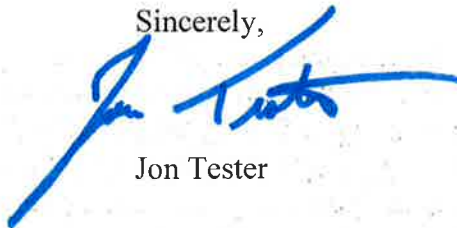
Dear Commissioners:

I write to offer my comments regarding the proposed Negotiated Service Agreement between Valassis and the U.S. Postal Service. As a member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I worked closely with a bipartisan coalition to improve the Senate's postal reform legislation so that the Postal Service's financial situation can be improved through several strategies, including finding additional revenue sources. However, while the Postal Service must be encouraged to find alternative revenue streams, I am concerned that the proposal under your consideration may unintentionally hurt weekly and daily newspapers.

The Commission is required to reject any proposal that would cause "unreasonable harm" in the marketplace. Therefore, I urge you not to rush a decision of this magnitude, especially one that affects the future of such a good customer of the Postal Service -- community newspapers. Instead, it is critical that you take appropriate time to consider all repercussions that this change could have upon the both services. I hope that you will fully and deliberately assess the outcomes of your review of the Valassis Negotiated Service Agreement.

Moving forward, I hope that you will manage a careful balance between proposals that may increase revenue and preventing unintentional harm to some of the Postal Service's best customers. On behalf of Montana's newspapers, I appreciate your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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